

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-12 will be pending.

It is noted with appreciation that claim 1 is allowed. The Examiner's rejections have been carefully considered, and the foregoing amendments are intended to overcome the Examiner's rejections.

Claims 2-12 were rejected due to informalities which are addressed by the foregoing amendments. Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1, and are therefore considered to be in condition for allowance after the foregoing amendments to address the informalities. Claim 6 was rejected due to an informality. Claim 6 was amended to correct the informality. Claim 7 depends from claim 6 and was also rejected due to informalities. Claim 7 was amended to overcome the informality rejections. Therefore claims 6-7 are believed to be allowable. Claim 8 was rejected as not reciting sufficient structural relationships between the recited elements. Claim 8 has been amended to clarify the structural relationships between the recited elements. Claims 9 and 10 were amended to be consistent with amended claim 8. Claims 9-11 depend from claim 8. Claims 8-11 are believed to be in condition for allowance after the foregoing amendments. Claim 12 was rejected as failing to recite sufficient structural relationships between the recited elements. Claim 12 has been amended to clarify the structural relationships between the recited elements, and therefore is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The rejections and claim amendments will now be addressed more specifically. Claim 2 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for "a sheet of paper." Claim 3 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for "a first time" and

“a second time”, as well as “a printing operation.” Claim 4 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for “a sheet of paper,” “a time,” and “a pickup unit.” Claim 4 is also amended to clarify that “the paper pickup operation” is the same operation referred to in claim 1. Claim 5 is amended to clarify that “the paper pickup operation” referred to is the same operation recited in claim 1. Also, the duplicate word “further” has been deleted. Claim 6 is amended to clarify that “the image forming system” in lines 3 and 6 refers to the image forming system recited in line 2. Claim 7 was amended to clarify that “the paper pickup operation” is the same operation referred to in claim 6. Also, claim 7 was amended to provide antecedent basis for “a sheet of paper,” “a time,” and “a pickup unit.”

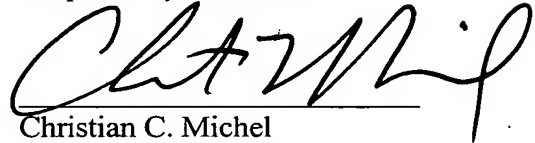
Independent claim 8 was amended to correct antecedent basis for “a sheet of paper” and “a time.” Claim 8 was also amended to clarify the structural relationship of the recited elements. More specifically, claim 8 now recites the structural relationship of the pickup unit, the paper feeding sensor, the transfer unit, the pickup re-attempt condition setting unit, and the pickup controller. Claim 9 was amended for clarification and to be consistent with claim 8. Claim 10 was amended was clarified to recite that the front end of the paper is detected by the paper feeding sensor. Claim 11 depends from claim 8, and therefore is deemed to be in condition for allowance based on the amendments to claim 8.

Claim 12 was amended to clarify the structural relationship of the recited elements, and to recite apparatus elements rather than mixed apparatus and method step elements.

All of the amendments made herein were made to overcome formal objections, and are not intended to narrow the scope of the claims, or to limit the scope of any equivalents to which the claims are entitled.

In view of the above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,



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